

Reigate to Brighton bike ride, postcard from, Northampton event...

Hello. I hope you all had a good summer break. You may notice there were no issues in July and August. I do apologise for this – I was away on a little break.

YOUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU!

Please be aware that I cannot do all the hard work myself alone and I will need your input for future issues.

SUMMER SCHOOLS

To those who helped at Lancaster and Winchester Summer Schools – I hope you had fun looking after the children.

No one responded to Issue 6 (June) where I asked for reporters to write about their experiences at DELTA Summer Schools. Come on folks – write something for us to read in next issue. I am seeking photographers too.

REIGATE TO BRIGHTON BIKE RIDE

As you may remember DELTA was holding a DELTA Bike Ride from Reigate to Brighton on Sunday 25 June.

DELTA young volunteers' bike ride team cycled almost 50 miles through rural Surrey and Sussex countryside in order to raise money for DELTA.

There were four boys in the bike ride team: (from left to right) Jonathan Clarke (friend of Hiten), Hiten Laad, John Durance ('Pope') and me.



The weather was superb, the scenery was great and our bikes were in good condition. So how did the bike ride team perform on the day? Hmm... here is my story:

As everyone wanted to watch the World Cup match (England vs. Ecuador) at 4pm we decided to leave Reigate before 9am. This would "give us plenty of time to arrive in Brighton", as I proudly announced to anyone who was listening to me on the day.

We left Reigate at 8.30am and cycled into the countryside. The team split into two when John and I cycled speedily ahead of Hiten and Jonathan. "Turn tight" John yelled pointing at the direction sign. John and I followed several signs until we arrived at Brockham village and we could not find a sign for us to follow. We looked at the map provided by DELTA and discovered that we were nowhere near the bike ride route. Unfortunately we followed the wrong signs – there were two bike ride events happening on the day, unbeknown to us. We did feel stupid when we saw a group of cyclists and raced after them – only to discover that they were cycling for the other bike ride event!

We wheeled our way back onto DELTA bike ride route and arrived at checkpoint 1: Rising Sun Inn in Charlwood village at 9.45am. Margaret Glasgow (organiser of South Summer School) told us that our friends had arrived, waited for about 20 minutes “worrying” about us and left for checkpoint 2. As I was about to sit down and rest on the bench John told me to get a move on so we can catch up with them. ‘Yes good idea’ I thought, as I did not want to be the last person to arrive at the finishing point in Brighton.

John led the route and soon we were cycling along the busy A23 road with heavy traffic. I got worried with cars driving very closely and started to wonder if we were on the right route. John yelled “turn left” and we arrived at Gatwick airport – no this is wrong! We arrived at checkpoint 2: St Leonard’s Church Field at 10.45am and we were told that Hiten and Jonathan hadn’t checked in. John and I were confused (because we passed no one since we left the village) until we remembered that we got ‘disconnected’ on the way.

John and I arrived at Walstead Place Farm at 11.40am. Hiten and Jonathan were nowhere to be seen and we had a text to say that they were not far behind from us.



John wanted to cycle up Ditchling Beacon (narrow and steep hill) but I refused because I wanted to use the mini-bus service (for those who do not wish to cycle on a steep hill – shush!). John cycled off for Ditchling Beacon whilst I waited for the others.

At 1:10pm – I was still waiting.

After an hour and half waiting (and my legs were beginning to ‘feel’ the pain) I decided to leave for Brighton. I cycled through Ditchling village into the countryside. I cycled on and stopped suddenly when I saw unrecognisable large hills in front of me. I cycled back to the village green and saw the village signpost was missing a destination sign. I found the sign down on the ground. I put the sign upright against the village signpost so that other cyclists would not miss their ‘left turn’.

The minibus took me to the top of the Ditchling Beacon and I saw Beverly Bell (helper from South Summer School) who told me that as she was driving to Ditching Beacon she saw “two men walking with their bikes... on a FLAT land” – and one of them had a green t-shirt.

From the top there was only one way to go – down the hill to Brighton. I flew down at high speed and arrived at Ovingdean Hall School in Brighton at 3.30pm. John was not at the school to congratulate me because (after a few hours waiting) he left for Reigate to watch the World Cup match. I waited at the deaf school for Hiten and Jonathan to arrive – it took eight hours for them to cycle from Reigate to Brighton.

Hiten and I had a fabulous free meal (sausage, beans and chips) at the school before we made our way to the railway station to catch a train back to Reigate where John was waiting for us. He had a most amusing day... and did we?

It was a brilliant day and I have enjoyed myself. I hope the others did too.

Oh dear! So what did happen to Hiten and Jonathan? Here is Hiten’s story:

After a night stay in a town near Reigate, I came fully prepared with Jaffa cakes and energy drinks to set off from Reigate at 8.30am. The weather was so perfect, not so cold and not so hot. I was riding in a new bike with its mileage at the time was 8 miles. My previous bike was stolen 5 days before the ride day so I was still trying to get used to the new bike.

As I reached the first checkpoint, Ian and Pope was nowhere to be seen as they took a long route. I was terribly excited that I was beating them. However as I was riding to checkpoint 2, my riding partner suffered a breakdown with his knee. Due to his bravery, we had to take breaks at intervals especially when we saw huge hills.

At halfway stage, I got lost on the way and it was very challenging finding a correct route to Brighton by using the map. I saw an ice cream and had a 99's flake on Ditchling Beacon. Yum yum. From there, I was virtually sailing to Brighton and enjoyed views of street and seaside.

It was a long journey for me and it is fair to say I had an easy ride. It will make my challenge easier next year as I will try to improve my time and make sure my bike don't get stolen few days before the event.

Hiten Laad



POSTCARD FROM...

DELTA held two Family Information / Social Day events on Saturday 10 June; one took place in the East Midlands region and one in the North West region.

East Midlands – Conkers, Ashby-de-la-Zouch

What a fantastic day it was for the East Midlands event. I think everyone enjoyed it.

There were seven ydag volunteers helping on the day. Kate, Laura, Owen, Hannah, Elizabeth, Andrew and I helped to look after the children and speak to the parents.

It was a sunny day and we all had a great time.



Kate Aylott from Leicester helped at the DELTA event for the first time. Here she writes her first experience:

It was my first DELTA event so I was quite nervous to begin with meeting all of the new people, however they all made me feel welcome and I soon relaxed and started to have fun.

The weather was wonderful, the sun kept shining all day which made the nature ramble very enjoyable whilst collecting leaves and twigs for the children's collages. After this we went to the adventure playground where the children kept us on our toes running around, wanting to play on everything. When they eventually became tired they were reunited with their parents, who had been to workshops all morning and went off to have some lunch.

We rounded off the day with a stroll around the park enjoying the lovely view and the sunshine!

North West – Bolton

Wendy Adderley had a great day looking after the children in Bolton. She says:

The Bolton day that I attended also went well with 12 families... I seemed to do a lot of nappy changing in the crèche...oh joy!

NORTHAMPTON EVENT, 6 – 8 OCTOBER

DELTA is organising another exciting event this year. The event will take place in Northampton on 6 – 8 October.

We are holding a secondary weekend for school years 5 to 11 and need about 4 helpers to help out with the youngsters and actually take part in the high ropes and archery activities. We did a similar event last year which was a great success. You will get travelling expenses and full board. If anyone can help out please let me know ASAP. Thank you Ian for confirming that you can come. Wendy

Please contact Wendy on wendy.adderley@deafeducation.org.uk.

WHISPER FROM DELTA

This year I managed to get to both Lancaster and Winchester summer schools which was brilliant and lovely to see so many helpers. It would be great if some of you could write up your experiences for the next issue.

I know that this year was very important for many of you with GCSE, A level and degree results. It would be really great to hear how you did and your plans for the future.

Membership of DELTA

At present we are trying to push our membership of DELTA, the more members we have, the better our chances of getting funding. Anyone over the age of 16 and who is committed to support DELTA's mission to help deaf children learn to listen and talk can become a member. The normal fee is £30 per year, concessions (anyone who is not in receipt of a regular wage) are £15 a year and this can be paid quarterly at just £3.75.

So come on you guys, all of you on this list are eligible to become members and have a say in what goes on. If you are interested please contact me and I'll send you a membership form to complete.

See you soon. Wendy x

... AND IT IS GOODNIGHT FROM ME



That's all for now folks. Please do keep in touch.

Regards,

Ian McDonald
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Do you know anyone who may be interested to receive the ydag / dvg newsletter? If so, please tell them about the newsletter and ask them to contact me.

Your contributions will be most welcomed – we want to read a story or hear what you have been up to. Please send contributions to the above e-mail address.

DELTA CONTACT DETAILS

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